

REMARKS**Summary of the Amendments**

By the foregoing amendment, claims 2-6 are amended, claim 1 is canceled, and claim 7 is added, whereby claims 2-7 remain pending. Of the pending claims, claims 2 and 5 are independent.

Examples of support for the amendments to claims is shown in the following table.

Claims	Examples of Support for the Claim Amendments
2-4, 6	Original claim 1
5	Original claims 1 and 2
7	Original claim 3

Applicant submits that no new matter is added.

Further, any amendments to the claims which have been made in this response and which have not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based upon the prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to attach thereto.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant thanks the Examiner for indicating allowable subject matter with regard to claims 2 and 5. Accordingly, Applicant has amended the claims to thereby place claims 2 and 5 in independent form. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests the claims to be indicated to be allowed.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant thanks the Examiner for consideration of the disclosure statements filed March 30, 2006 and January 24, 2007, by returning initialed copies of the Form PTO-1449 submitted therein.

RESPONSE TO CLAIM REJECTIONS**1. Response to Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103**

The Office Action contains the following rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103:

- (a) Claims 1, 3-4, and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated over OKI (JP 09-276405).
- (b) Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated over KLADDERS-1 (U.S. Pat. App. Pub. No. 2004/0173211).
- (c) Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated over KLADDERS-2 (U.S. Pat. No. 4,889,114);
- (d) Claims 1, 3-4, and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over KLADDERS-2, and further in view of OHKI (U.S. Pat. No. 5,810,004).

In response, Applicant respectfully submits that the cited documents fail to disclose or suggest every element of the rejected claims. Nevertheless, without expressing any agreement or acquiescence with the rejections of record, and in order to advance prosecution of the application, claim 2 and 5 have been amended to be in independent form, and to be made in accordance with standard U.S. practice. As claims 2

and 5 have been indicated in the Office Action to contain allowable subject matter, claims 2 and 5, and the claims that depend therefrom should be in conditions for allowance.

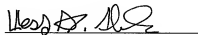
Accordingly, in view of at least the foregoing remarks, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. § 102 rejections as noted above in rejections (a) – (c), and the 35 U.S.C. § 103 rejection as noted above in rejections (d).

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections of record, and allow each of the pending claims. Applicant therefore respectfully requests that an early indication of allowance of the application be indicated by the mailing of the Notices of Allowance and Allowability.

Should the Examiner have any questions regarding this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,
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